



Binding 13

Chloe Walsh

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His first, last, and only true love has always been rugby.

Until now.

He wants to save her.

She wants to hide.

She's damaged.

He's determined.

Fate brought them together.

Love binds them.

Johnny Kavanagh has everything going for him. On the rugby pitch, he's a force to be reckoned with. Primed for stardom, he's heading straight for the top. Nothing can possibly get in his way, right?

Not even the shy new girl at Tommen College. The one with the sad eyes and hidden bruises. The one that distracts him like no one ever has.

Plagued with a hidden injury and desperate to impress the scouts watching his every move, Johnny has been placed on a pedestal so high, he has no room to make mistakes.

Striving to maintain balance, and on the crest of the International Summer Campaign, Johnny needs to keep his head in the game. He needs to stay focused, and cannot afford to let distractions get in the way of the bigger picture.

But what happens when a lonely girl with sad eyes becomes the only picture?

Life has never been easy for Shannon Lynch. Bullied and tortured, she arrives at Tommen College mid-way through the school year praying for a fresh start and desperate to shake off the demons that plague her.

On her very first day at the prestigious private school, she comes into contact with the notorious Johnny Kavanagh.

Thrown through a hoop over her feelings for him, and desperate to keep a low-profile, Shannon finds herself once again the target of bullies as she forms a fragile alliance with rugby's rising star.

Falling into a complicated friendship and grappling with their undeniable chemistry, Johnny and Shannon must face obstacles that threaten their relationship.

Two teenagers from opposite sides of the tracks collide.

Friendship, first love, rising fame, horrifying secrets, and pain all fuel together in Binding 13.

Hearts are binding and lives are entwining in Binding 13.

Binding 13 is the explosive first installment of a brand-new series from Chloe Walsh. Based in Ireland, the **Boys Of Tommen** series is bound to captivate and lure you into the world of rugby, love, and teenage heartbreak.

Binding 13 Details

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Author : Chloe Walsh

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From Reader Review Binding 13 for online ebook

Samantha Schwerin says

This is THE most FRUSTRATING book I have read this year.

-The plot goes round and round in circles, repeating itself every other chapter. For example: plot happens in chapter 3...chapters 4 and 5 revolve around Shannon and Johnny relaying said plot in chapter 3 to their friends. NOTHING HAPPENS. It's like 1 step forward and two steps in place. I can literally skip entire chapters and still get the gist of what happens. By like the 40% point, the two main characters have had hardly any interaction- but I know all of the antics of their friends really well! Gibsie is hilarious! Lizzie is a drag. That Rowen character sucks. Gibsie and Claire sooo belong together and are blind to it (I sense the build up to their own book)...etc. The book mostly revolves around Shannon's shitty home life and school life, Johnny's sports and their friends. Which is all fine...except its more about all of those things than a romance. And it doesn't help that so much of the plot is repeated every other chapter.

-There is slow burn romance....and then there is so slow, they literally go backwards- romance. The main characters have maybe 5/6 worthwhile scenes together and I am at the 72% mark. They talk the day Johnny hit Shannon in the head with a ball, they talk maybe once at lunch, they talk when she is forced to go over to his house twice, they have one meaningful conversation in his car and they go to a pub together. But most of their conversations revolve around him trying to figure out what the marks on her body are from, and kicking the asses of those who threaten her. They have kissed once (one sided mind you), talked a handful of times, yet they both feel like they are in love with the other. HOW?

-I get Shannon is a wounded bird- but MAN her actions are frustrating to read. She's just SO meek and the ultimate damsel that needs saving. *Everything* bad that could happen to her, happens to her. It's just a lot. And I get that she has had a hard life, but sometimes I just really wanted her to stand up and become a strong person despite all of that.

-Although I am giving this a one star out of pure frustration with the plot-I do have to say that the dialogue is this book is fantastic and it is pretty well written in general.

Lori Rowe says

Ten stars

Wow. I don't even know how to begin to tell you how much I loved this book. I loved that it was so long. I loved that I got lost in a whole other world. There is nothing remotely negative I could say about Binding 13. I was having a bad day and this book made me laugh when I felt like I couldn't laugh anymore. Binding 13 will have a special place in my heart forever. I almost wish it was longer. There were some moments that really will stay with me for a long time. All these characters were so special. I can't wait to read more. Love love love.

Casey ~BookObsessionConfessions~ says

I don't think I can go back to normal life yet after finishing this epic story! I don't think I can move on from these characters! How can I even contemplate reading another book when I feel like this? I just want to read this one over and over again until I memorize every single word. The book hangover is real y'all and this time it's MASSIVE.

If it was possible to rate this book higher than 5 stars, I would, because all the other books that I've previously rated 5 stars have now been put to shame. I don't know how I can even begin to possibly explain how much I loved it. I'm left speechless but yet have so much to say... does that even make sense? Probably not, because I'm wrapped up in so many emotions right now and my thoughts are a jumbled mess... so just try to stay with me here.

I'm not going to rehash anything that happened in this book because you can get that from the blurb... but this story is not your typical teenage angst drama with the standard hot and cold, back and forth plot line dealing with the romantic relationship of the main characters. That kind of story line has been played out so many times and to be honest, I'm so over it.

It's hard for me to put into words, but *Binding 13* didn't even feel like a story. It felt like real life that I had a front row seat to witness. Everything was so gradual but hooks you from the very first page. It's a slow burn, one that heated my bones, singed my heart and seared my soul. The innocence, the emotion and the purity of the storytelling, where it is all about the story, was done to perfection, but also kept light-hearted with all the hilarity, banter and awkward teenage moments that had me in tears from laughing.

Chloe Walsh has never disappointed with her amazing storytelling skills, her phenomenal writing, characters and her ability to captivate her readers and pull them into her books. And that's exactly what she did here, but added so much more depth and raw emotion than she ever has before. She created a whole new cast of characters that were so thoroughly fleshed out that you can't help but to submerge yourself into their lives, understand their thoughts and their feelings, and watch them grow day by day. Johnny, Shannon, Gibsie... all of these characters caressed my heart and gave it one hell of a smile. They are definitely unforgettable, especially that little shit Gibsie. That kid was a barrel of laughs and his banter kept this story fun during moments of conflict.

And Johnny... if I was 15 years younger and he was real, I would hunt that boy down, snatch him up and never let him go.

Seriously though, that boy's a keeper. He stole my heart and ruined me for all other book boyfriends. (Sorry to my other book boyfriends because I've just broken up with ALL of you.) The way he would fiercely

defend and protect Shannon had me completely swooning and melted the ice from my cold heart. He was so sweet, so gentle and kind with her, but he was still all alpha in all the ways that mattered.

Shannon's character may have seemed fragile, and yes, she absolutely was fragile, but that girl had strength... because how can you not be anything but strong when you keep taking beatings day after day like she has dealing with bullies and an abusive parent and still be able to get back up and continue on with life, not to mention take care of younger siblings? Ever so slowly, Johnny brings her out of her shell and her character ended up growing the most in this book.

Now, here's the part where I'm going to warn you, but not to scare you away... this book is HUGE. The length of this book is over 225K words. I'll admit, the page count did frighten me at first, but once I started reading I was glued. Work, kids, husband, housework be damned because I couldn't peel my eyes away from the pages for a second, and now I'm regretting not savoring it a bit longer. I actually wanted it to be longer, but never fear! It wouldn't be a true Chloe Walsh book without a cliffhanger, which means I get more of Johnny and Shannon in the next book in the series, *Keeping 13*. I get to see their love blossom and grow because these two are the forever kind of love, the love you live and breathe for. The epic kind of love.

"I think I need you for keeps."

"I think I need you for keeps, too."

Jean says

Well, it took me 10 days to read this 800 page book. And it wasn't because I didn't love it. It was real life getting in the way and family health issues. But I kept wanting to get back to it when I had to put it down.

The ONLY reason I didn't give it 5 stars.....the age of the MCs.

I did love the storyline, I did love Shannon, and I did love Johnny! I loved Johnny's dedication to his sport and his determination to stick with his life goals. I loved his protection of Shannon. I loved his friendship with Gibsie. I loved when he called her *Shannon like the river*.

AND I ABSOLUTELY LOVED, LOVED, LOVED GIBSIE! HOPE HIS BOOK IS NEXT!

I hated what Shannon was going through. I hated her parents. I hated her tormentors. But of course, loved her brother Joey!

This book took me back to Reason to Breathe by Rebecca Donovan which I read a long, long time ago.

Niki says

Loved!!

I loved this book so much!! I laughed, cried, and swooned over Johnny and Shannon like the river:). Can't wait for the next one in November!!

Bibi says

You need this book in your life

Take a gang of young adults with loads of teenage angst

Add Rugby

Mix with uber-alpha Irish boys

Stir in sassy girls

Up the ante by tacking relevant social issues relating to bullying and physical abuse; and you get Binding 13.

An explosive story, about 17 yo Johnny Kavanagh and 16 yo Shannon Lynch, that I simply could not put down.

Thank you, Chloe Walsh!

FRTC

Jan says

Well I liked this book although I feel like I shouldn't have. For one thing, it's about two teenagers - and that's not my preferred type of read. At the beginning, the h is only 15 and H 17. Whaaaaa??? But it's OK - there's no creepy inappropriate underage stuff.

And it's a bully book. Again, not my fav thing to read.

It is about rugby (Irish rugby), and I do like a good sports themed romance. So there is that.

But it's really long - 800+ pages. An EPIC!

And then there's the ending. It's a kind of a HFN/cliffhanger!!!! EEEEEp! I'm not too happy about the ending, actually. I was little shocked and kept clicking to see if there was anything on the next page. Is that IT?????? Is that ALL??????? After all these pages!!!! Ripped off!

So, why did I like it and keep reading through this massive book? Frankly, I'm not totally sure. LOL. But there's just something compelling about the writing and the storyline. The style is kinda extreme detail about every little aspect of the MCs' experiences, and you just get really drawn in. You feel like you're there, and you start to care about these people with their crazy sometimes incomprehensible Irish slang. And I wanna know what happens next! So I guess I'll be reading Keeping 13 when it's released. Hope it's not too far away.

Paula White says

This was a great start to a new series. I loved the relationship build up between Johnny and Shannon. He tried to stop it but it was meant to be sigh. Shannon - poor Shannon what a life she has led so unfair. That ending! Need the next book. Shout out to the supporting characters - they were great and Gibsie was so funny - what a great friend to have.

Tarsoaga Madalina says

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Currently reading this one. Almost finished it. And I'm going to write my review when I'm done crying my eyes out. As a former victim of bullying, this book deeply moved me and I feel personally tied with Shannon. As a sister of a professional handball player and a former player myself, I can understand the pressure that Jonny goes through. I felt this book and now I'm going to finish it and then I'm going to spend my night writing a damn review about it.

update

Fuck my life. Cliffhanger. A damn cliffhanger. You got to be kidding me. I'm so frustrated right now that I want to cry. This book broke me. I literally can't read anything else than the sequel to this one. Yes, it was this god. Review to come when my heart isn't trying to break from my chest and I'm not having a panic attack over this ending anymore.

Review(more likely me babbling about how much this book fucked me up)

Our story starts with Shannon an abused kid who was a victim of extreme bullying in school. You see this is explained in like the first 10 pages of the book and in that 10 pages, I formed a powerful connection with the character. From the get-go, it is established that this character is fragile and already broken. Shannon can't take another day in that school and she breaks down. So, our story starts with the conclusion of a tragic train of events whom deeply scarred Shannon. Small, underweight and having serious anxiety problems Shannon becomes a true representation of what bullying can do to people, especially teenagers.

The book presents a dark and disturbing side of adolesce. Mean girls brought to another level. Insecurities increased by the constant bullying, the wrong depiction o beauty in the modern-day society and the emptiness built into her soul after a life of constant misery. The author managed to portray a character that automatically evokes a need for proving protection, so when the other characters in the book react the same

way you wish to the compartment comes as a given.

Shannon story gets darker and darker with every chapter. Seeing her filled with anxiety provokes the same anxiety to form in your stomach. You tremble with fury, scream with excitement and laugh your ass off. 'Cause this broken character isn't moody, cold and has a bad attitude as a defensive and coping mechanism, this broken character is sweet and funny and makes you all warm on the inside. And because of this, her suffering is even more tragical and heartbreaking. Bullying is an important but fragile subject and here it was done beautifully. In this book, the bullying isn't sugarcoated, neither is it easily overcome. Nor is the bullied character anxiety magically transform and heal. This a real portrayal of the harsh truth of bullying and reading it broke my heart.

But bullying isn't the only problematic subject discussed in the book. Beside Shannon, we have our male protagonist, Johnny, an international rugby star. As with Shannon character the author manages to create a beautiful and real representation of the professional rugby world. The stereotype of the superstar male jock is put under a new light, Johnny's path is filled with expectation, emotional and physical stress, overtraining, invasion of privacy, falsity, manipulation. But above all this, the big weight that is currently pressing on Johnny's shoulders comes from his injury and the threat of missing on his imminent career. The pressure put on his body through his own choices and the expectation that comes with a position like his takes its toll and when his body shuts down on him, well everything goes to shit. Johnny's story is a story of ambition, sacrifice and learning what is more the priorities in your life really are.

Both Shannon and Johnny are strong built characters but when you put them together magic happens. For all the tragic and serious matters of the book, there was a laugh-filled moment or a sweet warming your heart of a stone scene that makes you swoon. And after those moments when tragedy hit again, it would always be so much bitter and worst. Their relationship was sweet and pure. Johnny commitment to protect Shannon give me goosebumps and Shannon innocence didn't fail my swooning heart for a second. Their chemistry was flying off the roof and the love between them seemed almost cosmic, almost as those two damaged in such different ways souls were put there one beside the other to save each other. Their story was simply magical.

The ending broke me. Just that broke. And when I saw the release date for the second book I legit wanted to cry. This book isn't just a good book, this book feels personal to me, dear to my heart and bearer of my dark thoughts. I can't recommend this enough. And if you didn't get that from this long ass review... well then I failed my job

Sophie "Beware Of The Reader" says

Review to come with Keeping 13 because I just have to know what will happen!

Whoever recommended this book to me (Sarah J Pena I blame YOU!) is responsible for this mess because I

have ARCs to read and review but I am just ADDICTED!!!!

Oh well I guess I'll have to read late at night to meet my commitments (Sleep? Who said we need sleep? Pfew.)

PS Chloe Walsh you are now on my radar Lady!

Shyralf says

4 ???????? Stars! OMG! This was so good! Poor Shannon, what she has to deal with at home, no one should have to go through that. No wonder she can't speak up or fight her battles and gets bullied, it all starts from home. Terrible parenting. That cliffhanger! Throw that bastard out! What's more important mom?

I love Johnny! How cute was he in the hospital when was high on meds, telling Shannon she's going to have his babies! Too adorable. I waited for book 2 to come out before I started this book and what a good thing with that ending. Off to read book 2.

RJD says

Boom boom effing boom!

What can I say about this book? All just positives! I love how Chloe always managed to get me hooked with all her characters from the start. Shannon, Johnny and their circle of friends will rip you to pieces (either with laughter pain, etc.)! She never fails to pick my emotions and interest with the way she convey the story. I started reading this book the moment I downloaded. Didn't stop till 5am to sleep and then had to continue the 40% left right when I woke up. Hooked! Just hooked!

Shannon, for such a young girl, all those pain and suffering since she was a little girl. Just utter heartbreaking. Johnny on the other hand has never lived apart from rugby. He is so determined and focused to reach his dreams from the moment he realised what he wants. I couldn't wait for more books of them and their gang!

Chloe Walsh is definitely my favorite author by far!

Siobhan Davis says

Incredible. Can't wait for the next book.

Megan says

I enjoyed the book, but too long (dragged on) that I felt it was repetitive. She gets beaten by her father and she was afraid to go home to a said beating, but I don't understand why it needed to keep being brought up. I

think bringing it up once was enough. Her mother doesn't deserve to bring children into this world and I am surprised the children lasted as long as they did before giving an ultimatum. He has surgery and couldn't get an erection, how many times did that need to be brought up. He is in extreme pain, but doesn't follow through with a follow up. If he had been seen by two doctors for the Academy, why couldn't they see it wasn't healing properly? They benched him from the Academy, but did nothing about the wound not healing. How many times do you need to tell an "ex" it's over, yet she doesn't seem to understand.

I frequently read books, by Chloë Walsh. I am finding a common theme. They all seem to end on cliffhangers and at least one character is from an abusive family.

Snow says

Pretty damn good, in my humble opinion...

More, later in a day...
